

Mayor's Report
Tuesday, January 20, 2015
Deborah G. Owens

BC Vision:

In April 2014, BC Vision kicked off with the following purpose for a community planning process:

By May 2015, in partnership with residents and leaders across all sectors, co-create a vision and an actionable long-term sustainable community and economic development plan that leads to a vibrant and equitable transformation of Battle Creek.

Much progress has occurred over the past months as they have worked to identify the community's priorities related to increasing jobs, improving talent development, and creating a culture of vitality in Battle Creek. BC Vision heard from over 3,500 members of the community through a survey, several large community meetings and a number of small group conversations, and five priorities emerged as most important to participants in BC Vision, including:

- Increase the total number of permanent jobs in diverse sectors and emerging industries in Battle Creek.
- Increase the number of qualified Battle Creek residents connected to permanent jobs.
- Increase the civic pride, unity, collaboration, and trust among the diverse community members that live, work, and play in Battle Creek.
- Increase the college and career readiness of students in the Battle Creek area.
- Improve kindergarten readiness in Battle Creek.

Battle Creek Air National Guard:

I had the opportunity to spend time with members of the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base for both briefings and tours. The Guard Base provides combat-ready personnel to support the command and control of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe/U.S. Air Forces Africa forces, as well as aiding any emergency response within the State of Michigan. The Guard also provides Cyber Defense support both nationally and locally to America's Air Force around the world. Recognizing that the Guard Base's primary purpose is to contribute to the security of the nation and State of Michigan, it also has a significant economic impact upon Southwest Michigan, totaling an estimated \$79 million. The impact is more than dollars added to the local economy through purchases; it is evidenced by the creation of direct and indirect jobs through various construction and maintenance projects.

Currently, work is being performed on many levels towards being chosen for the intercontinental ballistic missile defense site. The missiles would contain no explosive elements, rather a kinetic energy system that would use basic physics to destroy any inbound threats to our homeland.

Construction of the project is estimated to be about \$700 million and the region-wide economic impact of the project will be about \$3.2 billion, including 300 jobs directly and up to 1,800 jobs that support the project.

Fire Apparatus:

The Battle Creek City Commission recently authorized the purchase of a new fire engine, Sparta Metro Star, which will hold 1,000 gallons of water and provide a foam system. This new, state-of-the-art fire engine will be housed at Fire Station No. 4, located on 20th Street, and will, along with the other fire stations, provide excellent fire protection capabilities.

“Do You Know Your Rights and Rights of Police Agencies?”:

Feb. 5 Wayne County Circuit Judge Deborah Thomas, Calhoun County Prosecutor David Gilbert, Battle Creek Police Chief Jim Blocker, Calhoun County Sheriff Max Saxton and Lt. Dave Wood, Deputy Post Commander of the Michigan State Police Post in Coldwater, along with students from Battle Creek Central, Lakeview, Harper Creek and Pennfield participated at the W.K. Kellogg Auditorium in an event sponsored by the Battle Creek Branch of the NAACP, the Battle Creek Community Foundation and the Urban League of Battle Creek and several churches entitled “Do You Know Your Rights and Right of Police Agencies.” The public servants shared information, while the students asked many insightful and timely questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mayor

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